

NWS GRAND JUNCTION COLORADO



A LOOK
BACK AT

WINTER 2022/2023

WEATHER ACROSS E UTAH / W COLORADO

March 1st marked the beginning of meteorological Spring and the conclusion of meteorological Winter, which was observed from December 1st through February 28th. The Winter was overall cooler than normal, with eight of the ten automated observation stations located at airports across eastern Utah and western Colorado ending the season with below normal mean temperatures. The remaining two sites, Grand Junction and Canyonlands, finished the season with above normal mean temperatures and exactly normal mean temperatures, respectively. Mean temperatures ranged from 1.2 degrees F above normal, at the Grand Junction Airport, to 12.1 degrees F below normal, at the Vernal Airport. The season was also overall wetter than normal, with nine of the ten sites finishing the Winter with above normal precipitation totals. A fairly continuous storm cycle, which often was able to tap into deep Pacific moisture in the form of Atmospheric Rivers, is to thank for these impressive totals. Drought improvement has continued apace, with the complete eradication of Extreme (D3) drought and the near eradication of Severe (D2) drought. The end of February saw nearly all of western Colorado with no drought, and eastern Utah split fairly evenly between Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate (D1) drought.



WINTER 2022

CLIMATE SUMMARY



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NOTE: all data mentioned is collected from our automated observing stations from 10 airports across the area. Some observers in more remote areas may have measured warmer or colder temperatures, or more or less precipitation than mentioned in this summary.

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W I N T E R
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TEMPERATURES



Location	Average Temp (°F) (VS Normal)	Warmest Temp (°F)	Coldest Temp (°F)
Aspen, CO	20.4 (-2.5)	48 on 12/1	-12 on 12/17; 2/6
Cortez, CO	28.4 (-1.3)	57 on 12/1	-8 on 2/16, 17
Craig, CO	13.9 (-5.3)	47 on 12/1	-41 on 1/31
Durango, CO	23.6 (-2.9)	51 on 12/1	-14 on 1/26
Grand Junction, CO	31.6 (+1.2)	53 on 12/1, 2; 2/12	1 on 2/16
Meeker, CO	17.8 (-5.4)	47 on 12/1, 4	-31 on 1/31
Montrose, CO	29.3 (-0.1)	57 on 2/5	-6 on 2/16
Rifle, CO	25.4 (-2.0)	52 on 12/1, 2	-8 on 1/31
Canyonlands Airport, UT	30.5 (0.0)	56 on 1/10; 2/21	2 on 2/16
Vernal, UT	11.0 (-12.1)	38 on 2/20	-20 on 1/31; 2/1

W I N T E R
2 0 2 2

PRECIPITATION



Location	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
Aspen, CO	2.44	-0.33
Cortez, CO	4.92	+2.04
Craig, CO	4.35	+1.65
Durango, CO	4.11	+0.85
Grand Junction, CO	2.71	+0.97
Meeker, CO	5.17	+2.46
Montrose, CO	1.64	+0.35
Rifle, CO	4.98	+3.11
Canyonlands Airport, UT	1.54	+0.15
Vernal, UT	2.10	+0.40

WINTER 2022

CLIMATE SUMMARY



SEASONAL
RECORDS

R E P O R T

A total of 9 daily records were set across the primary climate sites

Site	Date	Record Type	New Record	Previous Record
Grand Junction, CO	December 28th	Precipitation	0.62"	0.52", set in 1946
Grand Junction, CO	January 17th	Precipitation	0.22"	0.20", set in 1927
Grand Junction, CO	February 15th	Snowfall	4.0"	2.0", set in 1940

High Max

Low Max

Precip

High Min

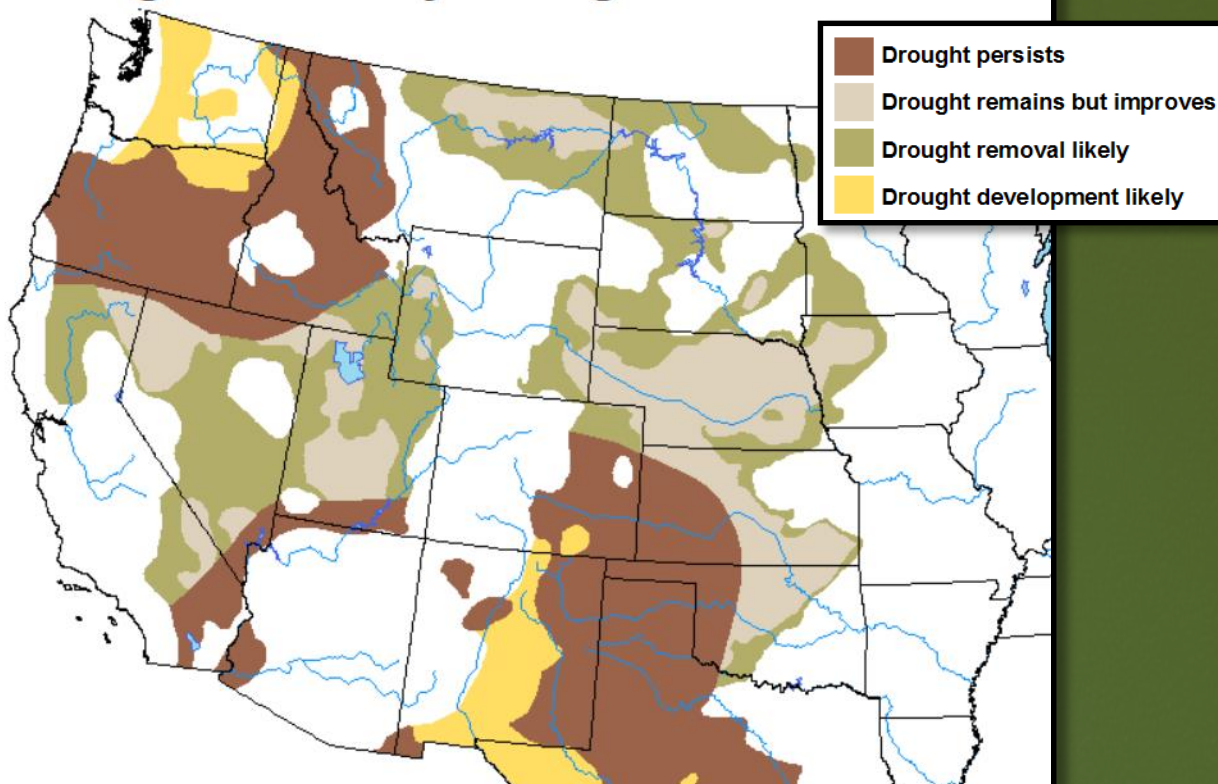
Low Min



The majority of Western Colorado will see no change in the drought status during Meteorological SPRING, while northwest Colorado, southwest Colorado, and the border area of Utah are expected to see drought removal likely over the season. The remaining portion of eastern Utah is expected to see drought remaining but improving.

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period



SPRING
2022

OUTLOOK

TEMPERATURES & PRECIPITATION



For Meteorological SPRING (September, October, and November), the latest outlook from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) shows odds slightly favoring above normal temperatures for the majority of eastern Utah and western Colorado, with equal chances of above or below normal temperatures for northeast Utah and northwest Colorado. As far as temperatures. The Four Corners and the majority of the San Juan mountains are slightly favored for below normal precipitation. The rest of eastern Utah and western Colorado are favored for equal chances of above or below normal precipitation.

Temperatures

Below

Equal
Chances

Above

Precipitation

Equal
Chances

Below